

## **By-Laws of The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr, Inc.**

### **Article I. OF THE FAITH**

The members of The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr, Inc., hereinafter the Parish, adhere to the Christian Faith in the Anglican Tradition as contained in the Solemn Declaration of the Anglican Province of America.

### **Article II. OF DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, ORDER AND WORSHIP**

It shall be the duty of every member to adhere to the doctrine, discipline, order and worship of the Church as contained in the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of America, or its lawful successor, the Book of Common Prayer in the American edition of 1928, and the By-Laws of the Parish.

### **Article III. AFFILIATION**

The Parish is in union with the Diocese of the Eastern United States (Anglican) and submits to its doctrine, discipline and worship.

### **Article IV. GOVERNMENT OF THE PARISH**

The government of the Parish is shared among the clergy and communicant members.

**A.** The Clergy and Ecclesiastical Authority govern the Parish as they are empowered to do by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of America and the Diocese of the Eastern United States (Anglican).

**B.** The communicant members as defined in said Canons govern the Parish by electing members to serve on the Board of Trustees, hereinafter the Vestry, at a duly called Annual Parish Meeting. The Vestry shall be the governing body of the Parish and shall hold in trust all property of the Parish in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina in which the Parish is incorporated.

### **Article V. OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY**

The Parish shall own its property. Title thereto shall be vested in the Vestry. However, before the Vestry can dispose of any of the Parish's major assets, including buildings or land, they must first have a seventy percent (70%) favorable vote from the adult communicant membership of the Parish. This provision shall apply whether only one or a few assets are to be disposed of for specific purpose, or all assets are to be disposed of should the Parish be in the process of being dissolved. In the case of dissolution of the Parish, the question to be voted upon by the communicant membership shall incorporate specific identification of a suitable, charitable beneficiary or beneficiaries of net assets—that is, an entity or entities with approved 501(c) (3) status.

### **Article VI. ELECTION OF THE VESTRY**

**A.** At the Annual Parish Meeting, which shall be held each November and called by the Rector with due published notice, the communicant members shall elect two communicant members to serve on the Vestry for terms of three years. Prior to election as a member of the Vestry, a candidate must be known to be diligent in their duties as defined in Article II of these By-Laws and must be a regular, financial supporter of the Parish as reflected in Parish financial records. There shall be a total of seven members on the Vestry. The officers of the Vestry shall be those designated in the Canons referenced in Article IV and shall be elected at the December meeting of the Vestry. The Secretary, or Clerk, if not an elected member of the Vestry, shall be allowed voice, but no vote.

**B.** Members are eligible for re-election after the interval (lapse) of one year.

C. In the event of a vacancy on the Vestry before the expiration of a term, the remaining members of the Vestry then serving shall fill such vacancy by electing a qualified member of the Parish. Such person so elected shall serve the remainder of the term vacated, subject to the ratification of the next Annual Meeting. Such member shall be eligible for immediate re-election to the Vestry. Should such member fail to receive ratification at the Annual Meeting, the vacancy shall be immediately open for election.

D. The Rector is *ex officio* a member of the Vestry and is its Chairman, with a voice, and in the event of a tie vote of the Vestry, a vote.

#### **Article VII. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting shall be called each November by the Rector, with due notice given designating the time, date and place of said meeting. At this meeting members of the Vestry shall be elected. Reports from the Rector, the Treasurer, the Wardens and other officers, committees and organizations of the Parish shall be given. The Vestry shall present a completed Budget for the next financial year, which shall begin on January 1 of each year, for ratification by the members. A quorum is necessary to conduct business. A quorum for the Annual Parish Meeting shall be one-third (1/3) of the entire voting membership of the Parish.

#### **Article VIII. VESTRY MEETINGS**

A. Vestry Meetings shall be held at least once every two months and normally once a month at a place and time designated.

B. The Rector has the authority to call a Vestry Meeting at any time provided that due and adequate notice be given the members of the Vestry. If the Chair of the Rector is vacant, the Rector's Warden shall have like authority.

C. A quorum of four lay members of the Vestry shall be necessary for a meeting to be duly held.

D. On the occasional absence of the Rector, the Rector's Warden may be designated by the Rector to chair a Vestry meeting, in which case a quorum shall be five lay members, including the Warden chairing the meeting.

E. When in the opinion of a majority of the members of the Vestry, a Vestry meeting should be called, and the Rector refuse to call for said meeting, the Wardens shall be responsible jointly to call such a meeting, provided the Rector has been given due and adequate notice.

#### **Article IX. LEGAL POWERS OF THE VESTRY**

Except as provided by the Laws of the State of South Carolina, the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of America and the Diocese of the Eastern United States (Anglican) and these By-Laws, the Vestry shall be the agent and legal representative of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations between the Clergy and members of the Parish.

#### **Article X. AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Parish Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of adult communicant members present. Any amendments so made shall take effect upon the close of the Annual Parish Meeting at which the amendment is approved.

Approved at the Annual Parish Meeting the Eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord 2007.

Lois Killinger, Secretary